

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01
/098 W

-----182306Z 105463 /70

R 171418Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3141
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
/AMEMBASSY TIPROLI 186
US MISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1600

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET CU
SUBJ: CASTRO VISIT TO ETHIOPIA -III

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 1533 (NOTAL), B) STATE 057062
(NOTAL) , C) ADDIS ABABA 1506 (NOTAL), D) ADDIS ABABA 1568 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MARCH 17 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED SPEECHES
GIVEN BY FIDEL CASTRO AND ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE,
LT. COL. MENGISTU HEILE-MARIAM AT MARCH 15 DINNER GIVEN
IN CASTRO'S HONOR AT NATIONAL PALACE. CASTRO REPORTEDLY
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SAID ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION FACING NUMEROUS
ENEMIES AT THIS DECISIVE STAGE OF ITS PROGRESS,
IT WILL TRIUMPH BECAUSE PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF WORLD
STAND ALONGSIDE ETHIOPIA'S OPPRESSED MASSES. CASTRO
DESCRIBED VISIT AS CHARACTERIZED BY DEEP AND FRIENDLY
SENTIMENTS AND CONCLUDED "WE JOIN YOU IN SAYING
REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND OR DEATH". MENGISTU TOAST

TO CASTRO EXPRESSED ETHIOPIA'S HAPPINESS FOR MORAL SUPPORT DERIVED FROM VISIT. MENGISTU ADDED HIS ARDENT WISH THAT REVOLUTIONARY UNITY OF CUBAN AND ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES, STRENGTHENED BY CASTRO VISIT, WOULD BEAR FRUIT AND SET IDEAL EXAMPLE FOR INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIANISM. THROUGHOUT REMARKS, MENGISTU DREW CLOSE PARALLEL BETWEEN HIMSELF AND CASTRO AND ETHIOPIAN AND CUBAN REVOLUTIONS. CASTRO DEPARTED ADDIS ABABA MORNING MARCH 16 AMID INTENSE SPECULATION THAT HE WILL MEET AGAIN WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO DAR ES SALAAM. END SUMMARY. FOR LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, SEE PARA. 5.

1. AT MARCH 15 DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR AT NATIONAL PALACE, CASTRO STATED HE HAD FOLLOWED PROGRESS OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION CLOSELY SINCE ITS ERUPTION IN FEBRUARY 1974. CASTRO REASSURED ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE THAT ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION FACING NUMEROUS ENEMIES AT THIS DECISIVE STAGE, REVOLUTION WOULD TRIUMPH BECAUSE PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF WORLD STOOD ALONGSIDE ETHIOPIAN MASSES. HE NOTED VISIT HAD BROUGHT BOTH PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF ETHIOPIA AND CUBA CLOSER TOGETHER. CASTRO CONCLUDED SPEECH BY STATING "STRUGGLE OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE WILL TRIUMPH" AND WE JOIN YOU IN SAYING "REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND OR DEATH".

2. IN RESPONSE, MENGISTU EXPRESSED ETHIOPIA'S GRATITUDE FOR MORAL SUPPORT DERIVING FROM CASTRO VISIT DURING PRESENT INTENSE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE. PARAPHRASING CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT FOLLOWING ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE IN SEPTEMBER, 1976, MENGISTU QUOTED CASTRO STATEMENT ISSUED BEFORE HIS IMPRISONMENT UNDER BATISTA "CONDEMN ME. IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE, HISTORY WILL ABSOLVE ME." IN RELATING EVENTS OF CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE, MENGISTU CITED TERROR CREATED AMONG REVOLUTIONARIES BY IMPERIALISTS, HIRED ASSASSINES, MURDERERS OF REVOLUTIONARIES, BURNING OF AGRICULTURAL HARVESTS, ECONOMIC BOYCOTTING, AND BAY OF PIGS AGGRESSION. MENGISTU DREW PARALLEL WITH ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION STATING "HISTORY OF STRUGGLE OF HEROIC PEOPLE OF CUBA AND THEIR REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS IS ONE THAT HAS VERY HIGH EXEMPLARY VALUE TO OUR COUNTRY." MENGISTU ALSO ADDED OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA WILL DRAW LESSONS FROM CUBAN PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS. CURRENT VISIT ENABLING ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT FRIENDLY PEOPLE OF CUBA. IN CONCLUDING REMARKS, MENGISTU HOPED THAT "REVOLUTIONARY UNITY OF CUBAN AND ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES STRENGTHENED BY YOUR VISIT HERE WILL BEAR FRUIT AND SET AN IDEAL

EXAMPLE FOR INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIANISM."

3. SINCE CASTRO DEPARTURE FROM ADDIS ABABA MARCH 16 AND POSTPONEMENT OF ARRIVAL IN DAR ES SALAAM UNTIL AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17, THERE MUCH SPECULATION ON CASTRO'S WHEREABOUTS. WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS GUESSING CASTRO ENGAGED IN KISSINGER-STYLE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY BETWEEN ADDIS AND MOGADISCIO. WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT CITED MENGISTU INTERVIEW WHICH APPEARED IN MARCH 15 OFFICIAL CUBAN PRESS (GRANMA) IN WHICH MENGISTU REPORTED TO HAVE PROPOSED A UNION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH YEMEN, AND INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI AS EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS SPECULATION. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT BELIEVED CASTRO ALSO MAY HAVE GONE TO MOGADISCIO BUT RECEIVED CATEGORICAL DENIAL FROM SOMALI EMBASSY HERE. THERE ALSO SPECULATION CASTRO MAY HAVE STOPPED IN DIRE DAWA, AS DID
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TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE LAST MONTH, OR HAS GONE TO MILITARY INSTALLATION IN SOMALIA, OR TO UGANDA TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON "BASTION OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM", IDI AMIN.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO "SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATIONS BY ETHIOPIAN BROAD MASSES NOR ANY PUBLIC SPEECHES BY CASTRO, CASTRO VISIT MUST BE SEEN AS FEATHER IN MENGISTU'S CAP AT TIME WHEN ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION BESET BY SERIOUS PROBLEMS. ETHIOPIAN MOVES TOWARD COMMUNIST BLOC AND SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE GAINING INCREASED MOMENTUM. MENGISTU REMARKS DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND CUBAN REVOLUTIONS AND LEADERS MAY BE INDICATION OF FUTURE DIRECTION OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, WHICH HAS ALREADY PARALLELED CUBAN EXPERIENCE IN SOME SIGNIFICANT WAYS. GOOD LIKELIHOOD THAT SOVIETS EXERTING BEHIND-THE-SCENES PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. CASTRO VISIT HERE AND TO SOMALIA PROBABLY ONE OF MOVES ON PART OF SOVIETS TO PROTECT PRESENT STAKE IN SOMALIA WHILE AT SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE WESTERN INFLUENCE IN HORN OF AFRICA.

5. SINCE DRAFTING ABOVE, WE HAVE RECEIVED MOGADISCIO 0458 ON SIAD BARRE'S UNANNOUNCED ONE DAY TRIP OUTSIDE SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY HAS ANNOUNCED CASTRO DEPARTED ADDIS MORNING OF MARCH 17 VICE 16 (WHICH NEVER ANNOUNCED) AFTER COMPLETING THREE-DAY TRIP TO ETHIOPIA. RUMOR CIRCULATING IN ADDIS THAT CASTRO WENT TO ADEN. WE WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT IF AND WHEN DETAILS AVAILABLE AS TO CASTRO'S WHEREABOUTS FROM DEPARTURE ON MARCH 16

TO "DEPARTURE" ON MARCH 17.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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